

It is one thing for news organizations to slant their reporting to advance their political opinion. But Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and the first glaring example of how this consolidation endangers our very democracy itself.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves - our airwaves - free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control too much of our airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what's needed to keep our democracy alive. It's important that citizens view substantive news so that they can make fully informed decisions about the issues facing our country, and not smear campaigns to advance a corporation's political agenda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Regardless of which side of the political fence you are on, if you love your country and your freedom, please take action to block Sinclair's affront to our democracy. Thank you.